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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/574,782	04/06/2006	Iain McCulloch	MERCK-3150	2545
23599 7590 04/29/2009 MILLEN, WHITE, ZELANO & BRANIGAN, P.C. 2200 CLARENDON BLVD. SUITE 1400 ARLINGTON, VA 22201				
EXAMINER				
NERANGIS, VICKIEY MARIE				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
1796				
NOTIFICATION DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
04/29/2009		ELECTRONIC		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

docketing@mwzb.com

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/574,782

Applicant(s)

MCCULLOCH ET AL.

Examiner

VICKEY NERANGIS

Art Unit

1796

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 March 2009.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 7-9 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 and 10 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/CIS) Paper No(s)/Mail Date 4/6/06
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Applicant's election with traverse of the lack of unity in the reply filed on 3/13/2009 is acknowledged. The traversal is on the ground(s) that 37 CFR 1.475 does not impose the requirement that the "special technical feature" be one which is patentable over the prior art. This is not found persuasive because 37 CFR 1.475 states that "the expression 'special technical features' shall mean those technical features that define a contribution which each of the claimed inventions, considered as a whole, makes over the prior art." Given that the barrier coating composition does not provide a contribution over the prior art as laid out in the last Office action, the lack of unity is proper. It is noted that the examiner did not use language "patentable over" in the lack of unit.

The requirement is still deemed proper and is therefore made FINAL.

2. Claims 7-9 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b), as being drawn to a nonelected invention, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Applicant timely traversed the restriction (election) requirement in the reply filed on 3/13/2009.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claims 1-6 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hoshino et al (US 4,363,889).

Hoshino et al discloses an anti-corrosive coating composition comprising 100 parts by weight of a polyester and 10-100 parts by weight of a glass flake having an average thickness of 0.5-5 microns and an average particle size of 100-400 microns (abstract) and solvent (col. 5, lines 10-19). With respect to the preamble "barrier coating," it is noted that case law holds that "where a patentee defines a structurally complete invention in the claim body and uses the preamble only to state a purpose or intended use for the invention, the preamble is not a claim limitation." See *Rowe v. Dror*, 112 F.3d 473, 478, 42 USPQ2d 1550, 1553 (Fed. Cir. 1997).

In light of the above, it is clear that Hoshino et al anticipates the presently cited claims.

4. Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Feeney et al (WO 98/56861).

Feeney et al discloses an aqueous barrier coating composition comprising at least about 35 wt % non-clastomeric polymer and at least 5 wt % exfoliated platelet filler (abstract) having a thickness of 1-2 nm and a particle size of 10-30 microns (page 9, lines 26-30).

In light of the above, it is clear that Feeney et al anticipates the presently cited claims.

Conclusion

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The International Search Report for PCT/EP04/010395 cites the following as "X" references.

- WO 03/34514 discloses a barrier composition, however, teaches away from using glass flakes.

- WO 00/49072 discloses a barrier coating system comprising polymer and laminar layered mineral. Its disclosure is cumulative to the art used in the rejections above.

- JP 63-68679 discloses an anti-corrosive coating composition comprising resin and glass flake having a thickness of less than 10 microns and particle size of 30-1000 microns. Its disclosure is cumulative to the art used in the rejections above.

- US 5,368,885 discloses a powder coating comprising polymer (col. 1, lines 50-58) and at least 1 wt % glass flake having a thickness of 0.1-20 microns and a particle size of 10-200 microns (col. 1, line 59 to col. 2, line 44). Its disclosure is cumulative to the art used in the rejections above.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Vickey Nerangis whose telephone number is (571) 272-2701. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Wu can be reached on (571) 272-1114. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

4/27/2009
vn

/Vickey Nerangis/
Examiner, Art Unit 1796